Claims

1. A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and an elongate shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being connected to the shaft by connection means permitting the cutting head to be positioned with its cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical without disconnecting the cutting head and the shaft, the shaft having a hand-grippable portion at a position remote from the cutting head, the arrangement being such that the line joining a point within the hand-grippable portion and the connection means is substantially parallel to plane of rotation of the cutter means when the cutter means is substantially vertical.

2. A trimmer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection means is such that the cutting head is movable between positions in which its cutter means is substantially horizontal and substantially vertical in a single movement.

3. A trimmer as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the connection means is such that the cutter means is movable between the substantially horizontal position and the substantially vertical position by an effective rotation of the cutting head relative to the handle of 120° in one direction or 240° in the other direction.

4. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the connection means is constituted by a rotatable joint.

5. A trimmer as claimed in claim 4, wherein the rotatable joint is such that the cutting head is movable between positions in which its cutter means is substantially horizontal and substantially vertical about a single axis.

6. A trimmer as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the axis of rotation of the rotatable joint lies substantially at 35.5° to the plane of rotation of the cutter means, and lies substantially at 35.5° to the horizontal when the cutting head is positioned with the cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical.

7. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 4 to 6, wherein the rotatable joint is constituted by a ball-and-socket joint.

8. A trimmer as claimed in claim 7, wherein the ball is fixed to the cutting head, and the socket is defined by a generally spherical socket portion formed at the end of the shaft remote from the hand-grippable portion.

9. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, further comprising a motor for driving the cutter means.

10. A trimmer as claimed in claim 9, wherein the cutter means is rotatable, and the drive engagement between the motor and the cutter means is a rotatable drive engagement.

11. A trimmer as claimed in either of claims 9 and 10 when appendant to claim 8, wherein the motor is housed within the ball.

12. A trimmer as claimed in claim 11, wherein the motor is an electric motor.

13. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein a rotatable cutter line constitutes the cutter means.

14. A trimmer as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 13, further comprising a wheel rotatably mounted on the cutting head.

15. A trimmer as claimed in claim 14 when appendant to claim 10, wherein the axis of rotation of the wheel is substantially coincident with the axis of rotation of the cutter means.

16. A trimmer as claimed in claim 15, wherein the radius of the wheel is of the order of, but slightly less than, the effective radius of the cutter means.

17. A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and a shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being adjustably mounted with respect to the shaft by connection means enabling the cutter means to be moved between substantially vertical and substantially horizontal positions by adjusting the position of the cutting head relative to the shaft by an effective rotation of 120° in one direction or 240° in the other direction.

18. A trimmer comprising a cutting head housing a cutter means, and a shaft for supporting the cutting head, the cutting head being rotatably mounted with respect to the shaft by means of a rotatable joint whose axis of rotation lies substantially at 35.5° to the plane of rotation of the cutter means, and lies substantially at 35.5° to the horizontal when the cutting head is positioned with the cutter means either substantially horizontal or substantially vertical.